THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) According to existing provisions, death of a candidate whose nomination has been found valid on scrutiny and who has not withdrawn results in countermanding of poll provided the report of his death is received before the commencement of the poll.

(b) The Representation of the people (Amendment) Bill, 1990 which is pending consideration in the Rajya Sabha contains certain proposals to discourage non-serious independent candidates from contesting elections. One such provision is to increase the security deposit in case of an independent candidate to 5000 rupees and in case of a candidate belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe to 25000 rupees. Another proposal is to provide State funding to a certain extent only to the candidates belonging to recognised political parties and not to any independent candidates. The Bill also contains a provision that no election should be countermanded on the death of an independent candidate. It is also proposed to made further in depth study in the matter as a part of general electoral reforms.

[*Translation*]

Security to Candidates Contesting Elections

*1571. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide full security to all the candidates contesting elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b). In April, 1991, the Election Commission of India had issued instructions to the concerned State Governments to provide adequate security during the General Elections to Lok Sabha and a few State Assemblies in May, June, 1991, to all contesting candidates depending on the nature of risk and threat to their person irrespective of party affiliation. Extra security was to be provided in sensitive areas/pockets. These instructions were reiterated by the Commission for the bye-elections and countermanded elections to be held on 16th November, 1991. The security was to be provided until the completion of election process and if necessary, even thereafter to prevent post election reprisals.

(c). Does not arise.

Improvement in Service Conditions of the Civilian Employees of Army Headquarters canteens in New Delhi

1572. SHRI RAM SAGAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for improving the service conditions of the civilian employees of various canteens in New Delhi, run by the Army headquarters; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) There is a Unit Run Canteen (URC) in the Army Headquarters which sells consumer goods obtained throughts the Canteen Stores Depart-